



## Welcome to St Botolph's Church

Jesus said "If anyone is thirsty,  
let them come to me and drink"

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### **Welcoming one another**

The grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you:  
**And also with you.**

**Bless us as we meet together, dear Lord we pray.  
Bless the singing of your praise, the reading of your Word,  
the sharing of our fellowship, the prayers that will be heard.  
Bless us as we meet together, dear Lord we pray. Amen**

**Hymn** All people that on earth do dwell (*Tune: Old 100<sup>th</sup>*)

All people that on Earth do dwell,  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
Him serve with fear, his praise forthtell;  
Come ye before him and rejoice.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;  
Without our aid he did us make;  
We are his folk, he doth us feed,  
And for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,  
Approach with joy his courts unto;  
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,  
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good;  
His mercy is forever sure;  
His truth at all times firmly stood,  
And shall from age to age endure.

## **A time to reflect**

Let us examine our hearts as we hear the commandments which God has given us. I am the Lord your God:

You shall have no other gods but me. **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

You shall not make for yourself any idol. **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

You shall not dishonour the name of the Lord your God. **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Honour your father and mother. **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

You shall not commit murder. **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

You shall not commit adultery. **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

You shall not steal. **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

You shall not covet anything which belongs to your neighbour.

**Amen. Lord, have mercy upon us and write all these your laws in our hearts.**

In a moment of honest reflection, let us confess to God our failure to keep these commandments.

**Create in me a clean heart, open and receptive, so that I may embrace the many ways you choose to visit my life.**

**Create in me a clean heart, cleared of the refuse of old battles with others and deadly opposition to myself.**

**Create in me a clean heart, freed from the clutter of cultural enticements, so that I can enjoy the beauty of life's simple things and relish the gifts I so easily take for granted.**

**Create in me a clean heart, bathed from harsh thoughts, shame and perfectionist tendencies, warmly welcoming others with the embrace of acceptance.**

Lent is a time for discovery; for facing fact not fiction, for honesty about twilight zones we may frequent, or long to: haunts of unreality, dead end traps that stunt our growth, that imprison us, that alienate us from each other and from God.  
Lent is a time for lingering in the light of God, for letting the rays do their healthy work.  
May our hearts not lie in darkness but be filled with His light.

*Remaining seated we sing:* Purify my heart

Purify my heart

Let me be as gold and precious silver

Purify my heart

Let me be as gold, pure gold

*Refiner's fire,*

*My heart's one desire*

*Is to be holy*

*Set apart for You, Lord*

*I choose to be holy*

*Set apart for You, my Master*

*Ready to do Your will*

Purify my heart

Cleanse me from within

And make me holy

Purify my heart

Cleanse me from my sin, deep within

*Refiner's fire*

*My heart's one desire*

*Is to be holy*

*Set apart for You, Lord*

*I choose to be holy*

*Set apart for You, my Master*

*Ready to do Your will*

**Canticle** A Song of God's Grace

**The glorious grace of God is freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.**

Blessed are you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
**For you have blest us in Christ Jesus with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.**

You chose us to be yours in Christ before the foundation of the world,  
**That we should be holy and blameless before you.**

In love you destined us for adoption as your children, through Jesus Christ,  
**According to the purpose of your will,**

To the praise of your glorious grace  
**Which you have freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.**

In you, we have redemption through the blood of Christ,  
**The forgiveness of our sins,**

According to the riches of your grace,  
**Which you have lavished upon us.**

You have made known to us, in all wisdom and insight,  
**The mystery of your will,**

According to your purpose which you set forth in Christ,  
**As a plan for the fulness of time,**

To unite all things in Christ,  
**Things in heaven and things on earth. (Ephesians 1.3-10)**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever.  
Amen.**

**The glorious grace of God is freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.**

**Hymn** God of grace and God of glory (*Tune: Regent Square*)

God of grace and God of glory,  
On Thy people pour Thy power.  
Crown Thine ancient Church's story,  
Bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil 'round us,  
Scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways.  
From the fears that long have bound us,  
Free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the living of these days.

Set our feet on lofty places,  
Gird our lives that they may be,  
Armoured with all Christ-like graces,  
In the fight to set men free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
That we fail not man nor Thee.

Save us from weak resignation,  
To the evils we deplore.  
Let the search for Thy salvation,  
Be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Serving Thee whom we adore.

**Readings** read by Phillip Elwell

**Luke 13:31-35** - Jesus' sorrow for Jerusalem

At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, 'Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.'

He replied, 'Go and tell that fox, "I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal." In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day – for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

'Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

**Philippians 3:17-4:1 & 4:4-4.9**

Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends! Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn** The Lord's my shepherd (*Townend*)

The Lord's my Shepherd I'll not want  
He makes me lie in pastures green  
He leads me by the still still waters  
His goodness restores my soul

*And I will trust in You alone  
And I will trust in You alone  
For Your endless mercy follows me  
Your goodness will lead me home*

He guides my ways in righteousness  
And He anoints my head with oil  
And my cup it overflows with joy  
I feast on His pure delights  
*And I will trust in You alone.....*

And though I walk the darkest path  
I will not fear the evil one  
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff  
Are the comfort I need to know

*And I will trust in You alone.....*

**Sermon**

*Remaining seated we sing:* Bless the Lord, my soul (*Taize*)  
Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

### ***Our belief***

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*(Apostles' Creed)*

***Intercessions,*** including *The Collect of the Day* led by Pat French

**Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness:**

**Grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

*ending with The Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into**



**temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

**Hymn** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (*Tune: Lobe Den Herren*)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!

Come, all who hear; now to his temple draw near,

join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously reigning;

sheltering you under his wings, and so gently sustaining!

Have you not seen all that is needful has been

sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,

if with his love he befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.

Let the Amen sound from his people again;

gladly forever adore him.

**Sending Out**

**Lord God, in this world where goodness and evil continue to clash with each other, instil in us, and in all your people, discernment to see what is right, faith to believe what is right, and courage to do what is right.**

**And preserve us body, mind and soul, through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

**Closing Voluntary:** The March in Scipio by Handel





*Please stay for refreshments in the hall (at the end of the corridor)*

---

Giving is an important part of our worship.

Did you know, one of the easiest way to give is by using the Parish Giving Scheme?

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/colchester-st-botolph-colchester/>

## **NOTICES**

Tomorrow, Monday 17th 2.30 pm, WGT meets at Castle Methodist when Revd. Robin Spittle will talk about Ruth and Boaz. All are welcome.

**Lent Course 2025** – During Lent we will be offering a book of daily reflections called ‘Living Hope’. Copies of the book (for adults and children) will be available to collect from church. If you would like to have a space to discuss and reflect on the study with others, our midweek bible study group will be running the ‘Living Hope’ Group Study - all are welcome to attend on Wednesdays from 10.30am.

**Midday Prayer Space** - This **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March** the church will be open for Midday Prayer Space between 12 and 1pm. If you would like to experience some quiet, refreshing time in God’s presence, come along for as much of the hour as you would like. We hope to see you there.

The Spring edition of ‘News from St. B’s’ is now available in the Welcome Area.

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

23<sup>rd</sup> March at 10.30 am – Holy Communion led by Ven Michael Fox

30<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am – Morning Worship led by LLM Sara Humphreys

6<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am – Morning Worship led by Michael Foster

13<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am – Holy Communion led by Revd Emma Smith

Churchwardens: David Poppleton 01206 570725 and Colin Nicholson 01206 577905

Vicar: Revd Chris Smith 07458 197461

Material from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England and from Common Worship: Times and Seasons included in this service is copyright: The Archbishops’ Council 2000, 2006. All hymns & songs used by permission. Songs covered by CCLI have been reproduced under the CCL Licence No 2163346